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JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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Volume 13

Number 2



**2002**

This issue of the Journal is dedicated to

**David Lawrence**

the stimulus behind the creation of the  
Barber Coin Collectors' Society.

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Dave was THE dealer promoting Barbers and attracting collectors who independently had interest in the series. Thus, he became the magnet for collectors with Barber interests.

It was Dave who suggested to Steve Epstein and Paul Reuter that they form a group of Barber collectors. With his encouragement and assistance, they did and the Barber Coin Collectors' Society was organized.



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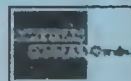
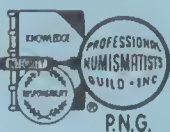
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JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein

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## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wrote the following remarks shortly after learning of the death of Dave Lawrence. These were read at a remembrance for Dave's family and friends. I would like to share them with you.

### David Lawrence Feigenbaum – Thoughts and Remembrances

I've known Dave for over 12 years. Can you believe I met him at a coin show, maybe in Cincinnati or Pittsburgh? We connected rather easily, looking back to this time.

Dave was a friend, an advisor, a giver of uncalled for advice, a father-figure despite my being only three years younger. He has known my daughter Erin from the age of 12 years, he has followed me through a divorce, and he has met and approved of my wife Mary Clare.

I so loved joining Dave at coin shows in Baltimore, Milwaukee, and so forth. Baltimore was always busy with John focused on deals, Dave meeting collectors across his table and our going to dinner at the end of a day. Later, and after Dave's diagnosis, Baltimore was the conduit to ride with John and Jack back to Virginia Beach and stay with him and Lynn. Milwaukee was different. John didn't go to this show at some point. Dave did this one alone with me. I worked(?) his table there. At one show, we met Erin for dinner at a place she chose (because Dave wanted this to be the way). It was not as good as where we would usually dine, but Dave praised the place to the nines!

It was in Milwaukee that Dave mentioned to me the first symptoms of what would be later diagnosed as ALS. I gave him an overly logical response ('it's progressive') which he recounted in his book My Story.

Lynn is a beautiful person who I know only outside coin shows. David must have held her captive at too many malls and moose clubs in the early years of doing small shows. I met Lynn at their home. I knew John when he was still in college and an assistant. I saw him join Dave and then deal with the major buyers and finally assume leadership of DLRC. I met Dave's daughter Nancy in Orlando, prior to ANA 199?. The deal Dave proposed was to be there a week before the show and help build the largest deck known in North America or some such reference point. On the job, Dave was my boss! Nancy prepared great dinners to mark the end of each day.

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Lynn is truly the cornerstone of the trial Dave endured. I didn't ever believe Dave accepted all the interventions ALS brought him (coped with maybe, accepted no). Lynn would describe rather casually, all the new medical gear I'd see after a six month interval. She is a source of strength to those who knew Dave, as she was his strength over these past six years.

Dave, I'll remember you always in all the gifts of your person, in all you told me and in all you gave me.

Your friend,  
Phil Carrigan



**David Lawrence Feigenbaum**

**1941 - 2002**

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## BARBER BITS

*BCCS members share their thoughts and remembrances of Dave Lawrence.*

When I Think of Dave...

I first met Dave Feigenbaum at the Cincinnati ANA in the late 80's. I warmed to Dave immediately as I was attracted by his casual and direct style. I was to learn later it didn't matter who you were, Dave treated everybody the same.

It didn't take long for me to get hooked on Barbers--not surprising since Dave was known for his passion and knowledge of the series. And, he put his resources where his passion was by providing the encouragement, editing, and advertising to help me get the fledgling Barber Society off the ground. If not for Dave Feigenbaum, there'd be no BCCS today.

Through that partnership and my continued role as a client, Dave became a friend and confidant. Our conversations often ranged from coins to politics to family and Dave would provide words of wisdom in each area. To my regret, my work put me on the hobby sidelines for a long while and I missed the opportunity to get to know Dave better. But what I did know of Dave--from my own relationship with him as well as what I learned from members of his family and those in the hobby and business--Dave was one of a kind and he will be sorely missed.

I think of Dave often. I think of him whenever I see John--his son--who, with his wit and presence of mind--has a lot of his father in him. I think of Dave whenever I see children on the bourse, and am reminded of the patience Dave showed in educating the hobby's next generation. I think of Dave whenever anyone is quoted about Barbers--and can only wonder what Dave would have added.

And, most of all, I think of Dave whenever I start feeling sorry for myself when things aren't going right for me. Here was a man who kept it all together through a protracted period of severely declining health, continued to maintain his dignity, and became an inspiration to all those who knew him.

I count myself among the ones fortunate enough to have known Dave, and will carry his memory with me forever.

Steve Epstein





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My first contact with Dave Lawrence was about thirteen or fourteen years ago when I was first getting interested in Barber coins. At that time, I was just trying to complete a set of VF or thereabouts quarters and I was ordering from anybody advertising in *Coin World*. Not really knowing the ropes at that time, I was subject to getting mixed results. After receiving my first coins from Dave, I was not too pleased and decided to write to him and mention that, while I was going to keep the coins, I felt that he could have done better. I was surprised to get a phone call from him saying that he was sorry and that he would like a "second chance."

I decided that not every dealer would have done that and, not only did I give him a second chance, but I eventually ordered several hundred coins from Dave and never had any regrets. With his help, I gradually turned my VF or better set into a very nice MS set.

I met Dave at several coin shows and he is the one who asked me, along with Steve Epstein, to be Treasurer for the Society. It has been a lot of work but of the very pleasurable kind and I thank Dave for his confidence in me.

Paul Reuter



## Remembering David Lawrence

Most of you probably know that David Lawrence passed away in May this year. Although we knew of his condition and its eventual outcome, it doesn't make the loss any easier to take. I don't know how many of you knew him personally, but he was one of the great dealers to deal with. He got me started on Barber coins back around 1980 and his table was the first place I would head at all the big shows. He would always bend over backwards to find the coins you might be interested in and work with you on buying them.

David also wrote the books on Barbers and the journals for the Barber Club in its early years. I asked him once when he was going to write the second book on Barber Dimes because of all the new varieties since the first book. His reply was "You write it. You're the one who has most, if not all, the varieties known." That was just the way he was. I cherish the times I got to spend with him at the shows and on the phone. I still do business with his son John, knowing the company is still one of the best places to find quality coins at a fair price.

Dave will be greatly missed by the whole collecting community. My heart goes out to all his family and friends.

Jon Potts

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# Illustrating Varieties

By **Steve Hustad**

Summer is here and our collecting interests are probably taking a back seat to (what feels like) seemingly endless battles with crabgrass and heat. But after a day sweating in the yard, what's more satisfying than sitting down at your desk in the evening to examine some new Barber varieties? (Well, okay, there's that, and um, that too, but I think you get the idea...). So, continuing with the Barber Quarter series, this section will present a few more varieties from the mid 1890s, namely, repunched dates and mintmarks from the New Orleans & San Francisco Mints.

## 4th installment: A couple of 1894 New Orleans pieces & an 1895 San Francisco Quarter

### 18/1894/4-O, RPD - East & South (1 obverse plate; plate coin is VF-20)

This quarter variety is undoubtedly from the same dies as the same one listed as "Lawrence 102" in Dave's The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, but the "8" in the date on my example also shows repunching within its lower loop to the East - not mentioned in the book.

The piece plated is in VF condition and was easily identified at a coin show with a 10x loop, so I don't know if that means that this coin was from an earlier die state (less wear shows more detail) or what?

One diagnostic die crack is present from the 13th star to the tip of Liberty's bust. No other 'telling marks' are present other than the numerals in the date on this obverse die seem a bit more widely spaced than usual.

Reverse die appears 'normal.'

### 1894 O/O, RPM - East (1 reverse plate, the plate coin is AU-50)

Lawrence designation 101.



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No surprises here (relative to the sketch & notes in Dave's book) other than I think on my piece I've noticed possible additional doubling at the right (to the West) of the inner loop of the "O" which may indicate a 'triple punching' of the "O"??? Dave shows this 'to the West doubling' too, but does not mention the 'triple punching' possibility.

No die defects were noted on the obverse, or reverse of the plate.

**1895 S/S, RPM - West (1 reverse plate, the plate coin is VF-20+; see also BCCS Journal, Volume 5, No.2)**

Lawrence designation 101 - this variety is also photographed in Dave's book (2nd edition) on page 37.

I'll start out by noting that this variety (of mine anyway) was struck using the 'narrow reeded collar' - 136, vs. 124 reeds around the edge I mean), as explained in my previous article in the BCCS Journal Volume 12, No. 2, page 9.

I'd like to say they were all struck that way, but who knows? Collars would break and be replaced, or perhaps a certain pair of dies might have their striking 'runs' started and stopped at different times - utilizing a different collar each time. We just don't know until more pieces of this variety are examined and reported on.

The "S" is boldly punched to the West as illustrated. Bottom serif separate top with a gap. Earlier die states may show more/better detail.

Plate coin has no obverse diagnostics, but the reverse does have a small die chip present at the very end of the ribbon where indicated.

On the following pages are scans of the three plates. That closes out another segment of "Illustrating Varieties." In the next issue, we'll show a couple of interesting quarter variety pieces not included in Dave's book.

So now it's time for you to get back to the garden and pull some more weeds and for me to get back to building little 1/72nd scale model airplanes (my other hobby).

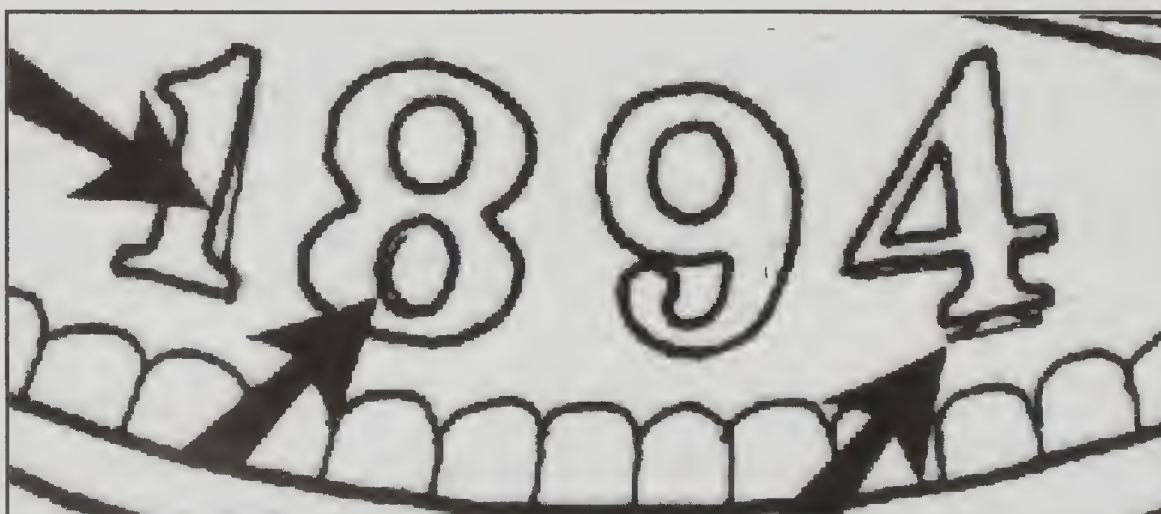
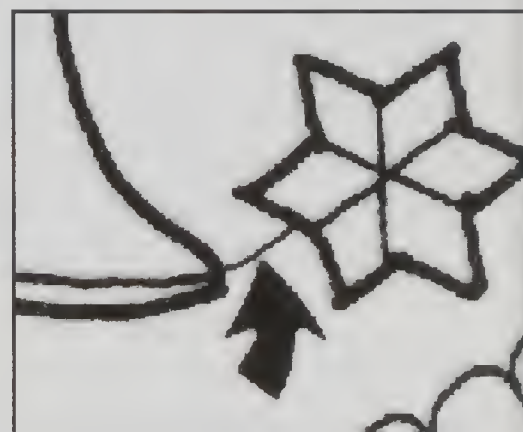
I hope you're all having a wonderful summer!

Steve Hustad

18/1894/4-O

RPD - East & South

QUARTER



OBVERSE: The 1 & 8 were originally punched in to the east and are faint (the undertype 1 being more visible). The 4 was punched in south of the final 4 & is quite bold. The undertype 4's 'foot' is visible to the naked eye. Numerals in the date are somewhat widely spaced.

REVERSE: Normal.

#### DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: Only a short, faint hairline die crack off the right tip of the bust to star thirteen.

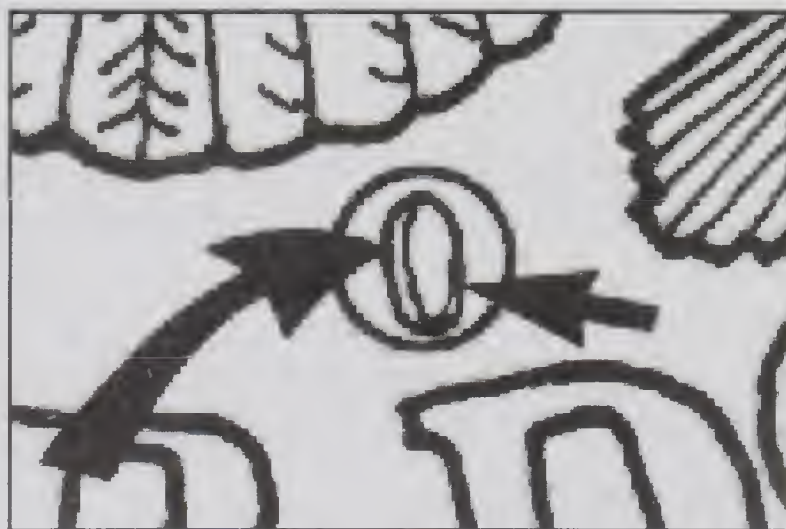
Rev.: None seen.



1894-O/O I

RPM - East

QUARTER



OBVERSE: Normal.

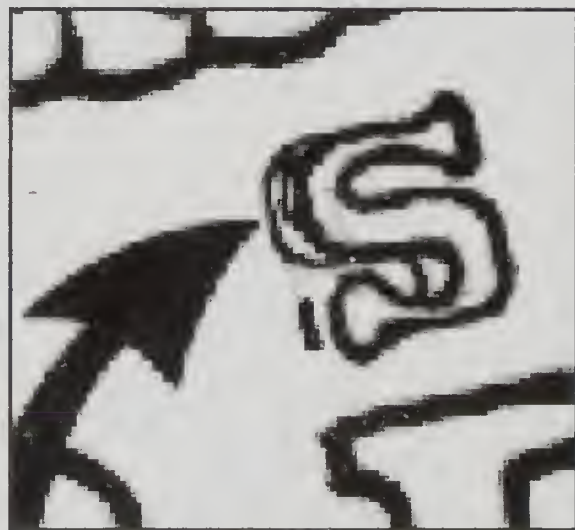
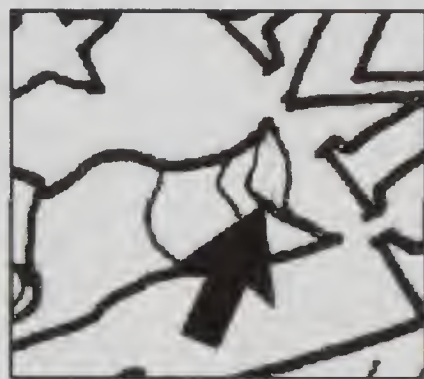
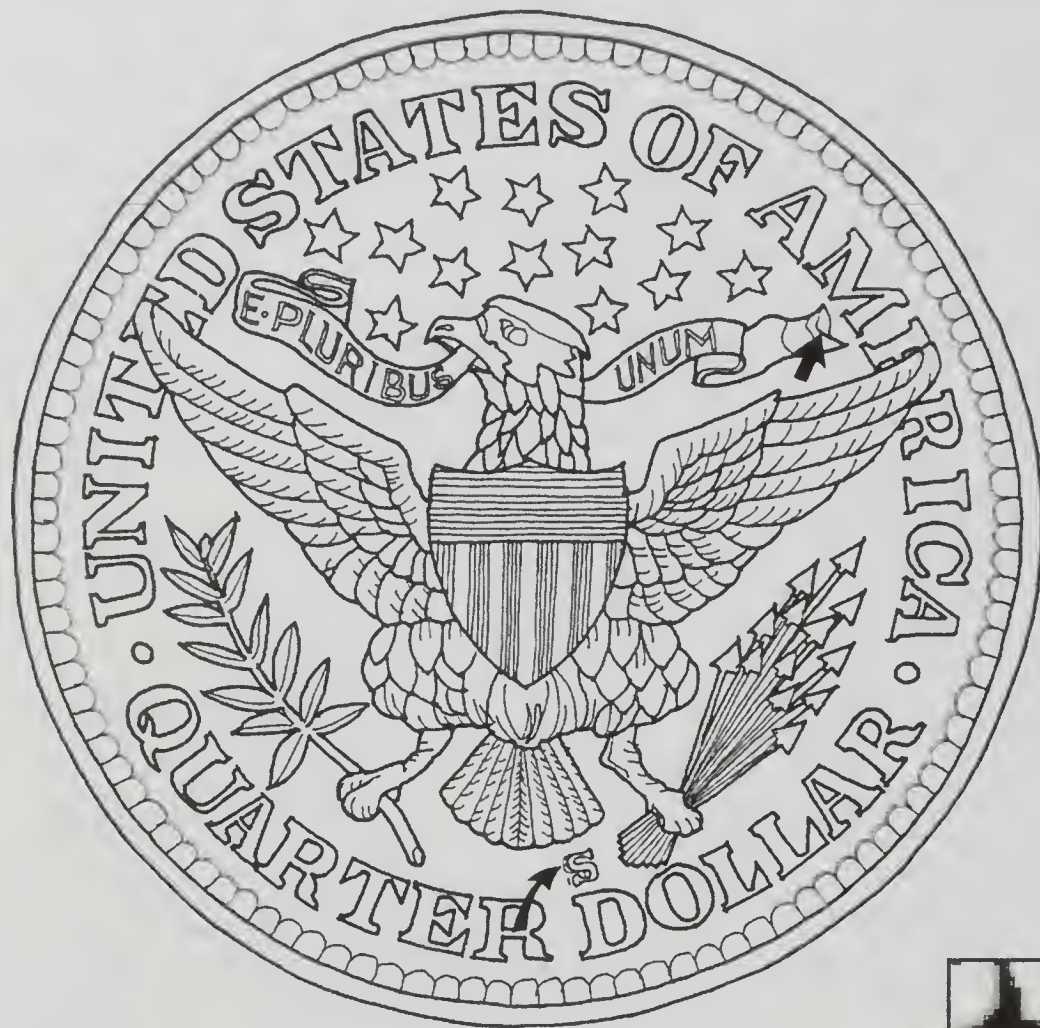
REVERSE: The mintmark was originally punched in to the East of the final 'O.' All remnants occur within the 'O' as shown. Most bold at left; very fine doubling at right. (Triple punched?)

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen

Rev.: None seen.





OBVERSE: Normal.

REVERSE: The mintmark was originally punched in too far to the west. Very clear remnants of the upper loop and a portion of the lower serif show. Also inside the final mintmark's lower loop is a trace of the first S's loop. This die has the 'square' style mintmark.

EDGE: This variety was struck using the narrow reeded collar - about 136 vs. 124 'teeth' as is usual.

#### DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen

Rev.: A small die chip is present at the right ribbon end as shown.

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# The Tale of Two 1913 Mint State Barber Quarters

By Glenn J. Church

Once upon a time, a coin dealer owned the top two Mint State 1913 Philadelphia Barber Quarters. Both graded PCGS MS66.

The better of the two coins, in that owner's judgment, was placed for auction August 9, 1991 in the Chicago Sale (Akers/RARCOA), lot 446, PCGS tag #5664, 66/74 18219. I purchased this coin for the gross amount of \$8,636.29.

The information I relate to you now was verified by many well-placed long distance calls. The final conclusions gained from the information are strictly my own.

Coin expert Doug Winter came to my house in Bexley, Ohio on May 15, 1993 and examined my collection of Mint State Barber Quarters, arguably one of the best of all time. As Doug "walked" through my quarters, he came to the 1913 and excitedly exclaimed, "This is an exceptional coin, a super coin, original and not retuned!"

David Hall of PCGS, and a coin dealer, has in the past written a published report on the 1913 quarter. In the report he states that "Since 1976... 65+ specimens are just not to be found."

To show you that up until July 2000 there were only two coins total that made up the top population of MS66 and MS67, I need to give you a population progression as follows:

1. On the date of purchase of my coin in 1991, NGC showed 3/65 and none higher; and PCGS showed two coins at MS66.
2. In August, 1993 at the Manheim/Heritage Sale in Texas, the second 1913 Philadelphia quarter was purchased by a coin dealer who in turn sold it to a Dr. Richard Sherman whose whereabouts are unknown. At this time, the coin had been upgraded to MS67 by PCGS.
3. In 1999, in David Lawrence's book, Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage, page 74, it shows (2) MS66 and (1) MS67. This was also the published population in 2000. Do we really have *three* top coins now? No!



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What happened in the space of time between 1991 and 1993?

Somehow a drug dealer had acquired the second coin. While the drug dealer had the coin, his coin consultant submitted the second PCGS MS66 coin to NGC expecting to get an upgrade. Instead, it came back in an NGC MS66 holder. Not deterred, the coin dealer removed the coin from its NGC holder, disposed of the tag, and was able to get an upgrade to PCGS MS67. Had the coin dealer really cared for the accuracy of the coin population, he would have returned the tag to NGC (and received a 50c refund), but he obviously had no concern for accurate numismatic history and, of course, his drug dealer client didn't care either. The quarter was subsequently confiscated in a drug raid and sold in a government sale.

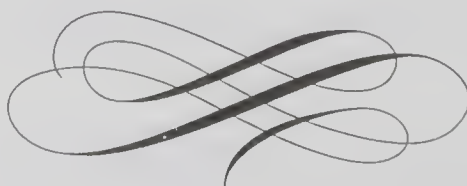
So, we still have the original two coins, not three, and the only two coins in either of the grading forms; and the judgment of the original owner that mine was the better of the two.

I hope the new owner of my coin, a gentleman from Kansas, submits it to PCGS for a possible MS68 grade.

The beauty of my 1913 quarter, which sold for \$14,300 (includes the buyer's fee) at the FUN Show Heritage Auction in Orlando, FL, Jan. 5, 2001, is shown in the sale's catalog, page 153:

"The Philadelphia Mint delivered limited numbers of quarters...in 1913. The quarter, of which only 484,000 business strikes were produced, is the rarest P mint in all grades... A visually stunning Gem, the obverse displays dappled shades of intense emerald green, orange-russet, olive, and crimson iridescence. The reverse is silver-white in appearance with the exception of flashy crimson-russet peripheral highlights. Both sides display pinpoint striking definition and radiant frosty luster, testimony of the care with which this coin was produced. An example whose eye appeal alone would do justice to the finest collection."

Our story was a tale crying to be told. To own the best coin of the year of minting is a proud moment for an owner of the coin. The new owner of my 1913 quarter was at the FUN Show auction with his coin dealer and they realized that they were getting an exceptional coin at a fair price.







## Secretary/Treasurer's Message

By **Paul Reuter**

Elsewhere in this Journal, you will find a reprint of a letter I recently received from Luca Lizzio. Luca lives in Italy and is our only European member. He has been a member for several years and has purchased most of the available back issues of the Journal.

Luca spent quite a few of his elementary school years in this country as his father was attached to the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C. As mentioned above, he currently resides in Italy and is what we in this country would call a train master. He makes the trains go.

Two years ago Luca phoned me about 9 P.M. my time (it must have been the very wee hours his time) and we had a nice conversation. While talking to him, I asked him to write something for a future Journal but he declined for several reasons. I think his letter is interesting and will serve the same purpose. Hope you members enjoy reading it.

On another subject, I've collected the e-mail addresses of all who sent them and have forwarded them to Phil. If any more come in, I'll do the same. Also, I will forward any e-mail changes to Phil. However, I will not be maintaining the file on the addresses as it is beyond my scope. And, as usual, I can be reached by e-mail as need be.

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS October 15th**

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# 1901-O /Horizontal O Refuted

By Kevin Flynn

I always enjoy unusual varieties such as mintmarks struck over inverted or horizontal mintmarks. We see photographs at 60 power and wonder how it could happen. But the mintmark is only about 1/10 of an inch high. Repunching of the mintmark is not normally visible with the naked eye. Imagine the poor mint employee who had to sit there all day and strike a mintmark by hand into each working die being sent to a Branch Mint. It was most likely a job requiring little skill and not performed by individuals high in the engraving department.

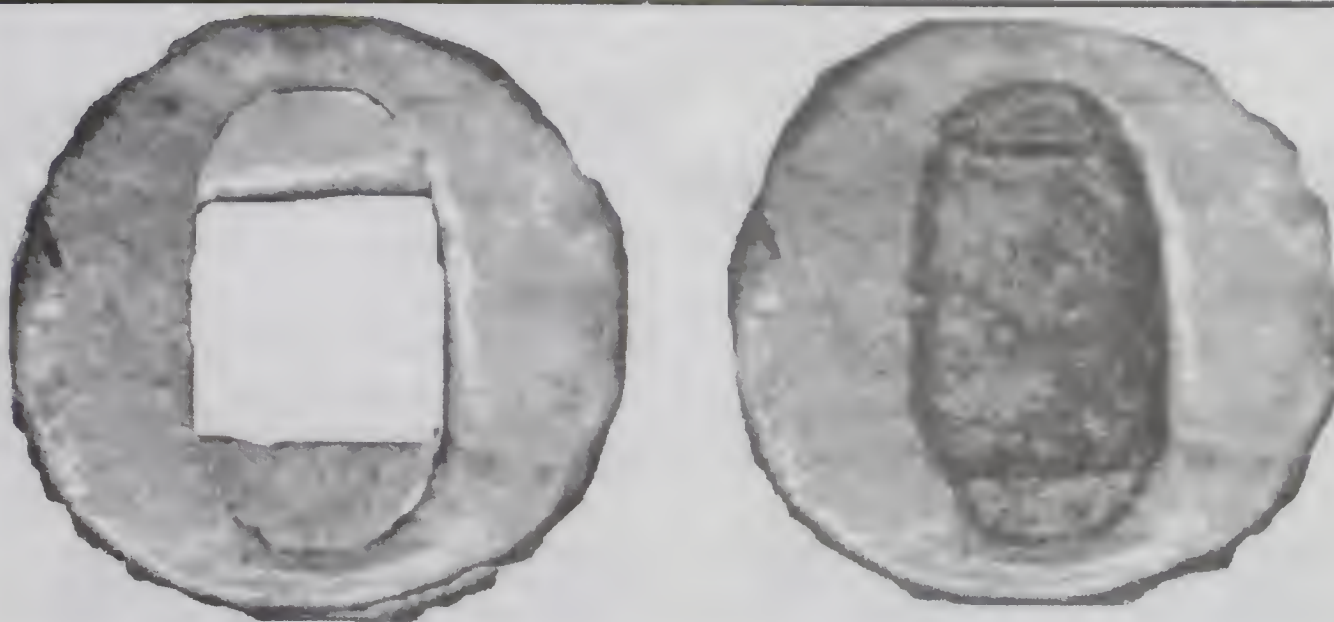
For the Barber coinage, the mintmark was struck into each reverse working die being sent to a Branch Mint. This was done with a mallet and punch with a letter on one end. When the mintmark was struck into the reverse die, the mintmark was incused or down into the die. If the engraver wanted to remove the mintmark once it was struck into the die, he would have to polish or abrade the die down to the level of the mintmark. If the mintmark was struck deeply, to remove the mintmark would leave a deep depression in the die which would show up as a lump on the coin. The mintmarks are also tapered, which means that the center of the metal is higher than the sides. This makes it easier to strike and remove.

When I started working on a book in the Barber series, I first read about all of the known die varieties that were published. One of them was the 1901-O/horizontal O Barber Dime. I examined the picture in the RPM Book by Tom Miller and John Wexler and also in the Barber Dime book by David Lawrence. Something immediately struck me as peculiar. The 'O' mintmark used had a long and thin middle. The metal which is called the remnants of a horizontal O is seen at the top and bottom of the final O. In addition, there was no remnants of the Horizontal O outside the final O.

I received a specimen from a collector and photographed it at 60 power. I scanned the photograph and removed the outside and middle of the O. I then turned the O horizontally, and overlaid a vertical O. As can be seen in the first photograph on the next page, the upper and lower metal of the horizontal O comes much closer to the middle. The photograph to the right is of the normal "O/Horizontal O" for comparison.

When examining the close-up photographs, another diagnostic became clear.





*As illustrated in the upper left photo, I scanned the photograph and removed the outside and middle of the O. I then turned the O horizontally and overlaid a vertical O. The upper and lower metal of the horizontal O comes much closer to the middle. The photograph to the right is of the normal "O/Horizontal O" for comparison.*

The metal at the bottom of the O is curved at both sides. If this is the remnants of a horizontal O, this should be straight. How could it be curved on both ends?

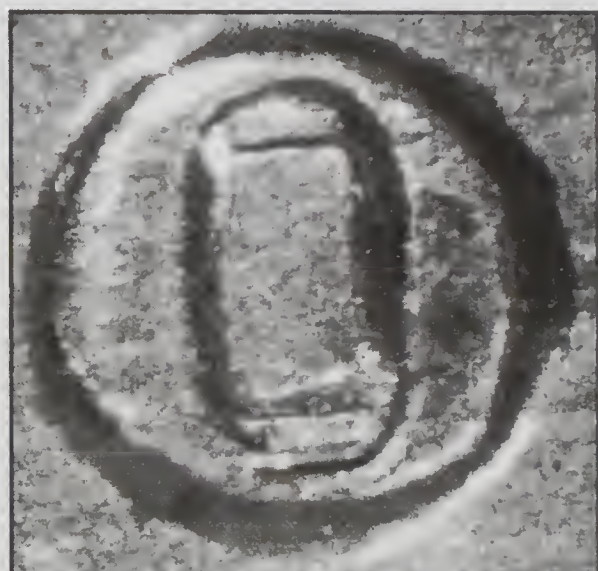
Is it possible that the engraver removed most of the remnants of the O? If there was a horizontal O, there are two possibilities. Either the engraver removed the horizontal O before he added the normal O or he removed the remnants of the O after he struck the normal O in. If he removed it before he struck in the normal O, why did he leave remnants of the middle of the O which would have been obvious as an incused area? If the engraver removed it after striking the normal O, the center of the O is higher on the die than the surrounding incused area which the mintmark was struck. How did he leave metal at the top and bottom of the center of the O?

Let's say we did have a horizontal O. The engraver grinds down the metal to remove the incused horizontal O in the center of the normal O. In order for this to be true, there would have to be a second deeper incusion or impression below the horizontal O at the top and bottom of the center of the normal O. Think about it, if I grind the center of the O to bring it down to the level that the incused horizontal O was, the metal we see in the center of the O would have to be deeper than the top of the metal of the so called horizontal O.

The above paragraph is just an analysis to cover all possibilities. There are no signs of any depressions of a removed mintmark. In addition, the metal in the center of the O is at the same height as the metal in the field, which means no metal was ground off.



Is there a possibility that a horizontal mintmark was struck very lightly with only the center of the O making an impression? Two diagnostics point against this theory. First, how could the metal be curved on both ends on the bottom metal? Second, if this was a lightly punched horizontal O, the center of the O or the highest point would be closer to the center. In the photographs below, another diagnostic exhibits evidence pointing against an underlying O mintmark. If you examine the inside of the normal O mintmark, the side wall of the O is consistent in angle and depth. The top of the insides of the O are tapered. The reason for this is that it makes it easier to strike and remove the mintmark when punching it into the die.



Now, let's examine the metal at the bottom of the O. The top of the metal all across is sharp, it is not tapered like the top of the O mintmark. The angle along the wall of the metal changes dramatically from left to right. On the left side, there is a very steep angle of about 85 degrees. This changes constantly from left to right, with the angle on the right side being about 45 degrees. Examine the inside wall of the O mintmark, it is not even close to the metal at the bottom of the O. The height of the metal below the top and above the bottom of the O is different. The metal above the bottom is higher.

Early die state specimens show a die crack from the right side of the O mintmark to the lower right ribbon. Late die state specimens show the die crack from the right side of the O mintmark, but also show a die crack from the bottom of the O mintmark, up the left side of the O, to the lower left ribbon, then through the wreath to about 9 o'clock. Late die state specimens also show clashing on the obverse in front and back of the neck and in front of the chin. Clashing is seen on the reverse on the inside of both sides of the wreath.

The evidence clearly shows that this variety is not an O over horizontal O. The next obvious question is what caused this? My belief is that it could a cud, but that is just a theory at this point. If anyone has any ideas, please write to me at Kevin Flynn, P.O. Box 538, Rancocas, NJ 08073 or e-mail: kevinj50@comcast.net.

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# Dig Into Barber Dime Series for a Challenge

By **Paul M. Green**

*Reprinted from the October 23, 2001 issue of Numismatic News, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990 with permission of Krause Publications, Inc.*

The Barber dime historically does not get a great deal of attention. About the only time anyone mentions Barber dimes is once every year or two when an 1894-S comes on the auction block.

To put it mildly, the 1894-S Barber dime is somewhat the exception to the rule when it comes to Barber dimes. The 1894-S is about as far removed from the average Barber dime as Larry Bird or Michael Jordan are removed from the average high school basketball player.

The 1894-S Barber dime is certainly an interesting story, although we are not sure just what that story is, as our records leave a couple of interesting gaps in its history.

The 1894-S is often considered one of the big three American coin rarities along with the 1913 Liberty Head nickel and the 1804 silver dollar. The fit is not perfect for a number of reasons. The three certainly command three of the top prices of any U.S. coin, but they are not the three toughest American coins. Of the three, the 1894-S is the most available, with a generally accepted mintage of 24 pieces, of which a number are still in private hands today.

No one is precisely sure what happened to each of the 1894-S Barber dimes, although one popular story has at least one being spent on an ice cream cone. Most, however, probably did not reach circulation, and if a couple of others did, San Francisco in 1894 was not the best place for a coin to circulate if your concern was having it survive for later collectors to place in their collections. San Francisco in 1894 was still something of an outpost on the frontier. A coin reaching circulation in San Francisco could travel just about anywhere, but almost never in the direction of large numbers of the nation's collectors at the time. Moreover, if a coin stayed in San Francisco in 1894, it was likely to get caught in the great earthquake and fire that followed. Consequently, large mintage or small, San Francisco coins of the period can be very tough - especially in high grades, as evidenced by the lack of top-quality "S" gold eagles from the period.



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Related to the question of what happened to the 24 1894-S Barber dimes is the question of why anyone would make only 24 dimes in the first place. Was the 1894-S a private striking for the friends of San Francisco Mint Supervisor J. Daggert? Were the coins struck merely to balance the books at the facility? Or did Daggert just wake up one morning, decide that he needed to do something wild and crazy, and chance on the idea of making 24 1894-S dimes? It was probably not that, but we are not really sure why the 1894-S dimes were produced.

We can, however, be sure the 1894-S is a great rarity, even if it is not as rare as its price suggests. That is true of the 1913 Liberty Head nickel and the 1804 dollar as well. The publicity the big three get results in prices that go higher and higher. The Norweb November 1987 Gem Proof-65 specimen brought \$77,000, while in 1996, the Eliasberg Proof-64 reached \$451,000. In less than a decade, that is pretty solid appreciation, and it shows the continuing popularity of the 1894-S Barber dime.

The 1894-S Barber dime is, however, the exception when it comes to Barber dimes, both in terms of publicity and in price. Virtually no other Barber dime is well-known, and very few command high prices when you consider their age and scarcity.

Because obtaining an 1894-S is not a possibility for most, it is not usually considered a necessary part of a complete Barber dime collection. Of the other dates in a potential Barber dime collection, the key date would have to be the 1895-O.

The 1895-O is far apart from the other better Barber dimes, as evidenced by the fact that its mintage of 440,000 is safely the lowest Barber dime mintage, excluding the 1894-S. In fact, compared to other better Barber dime dates, the price of the 1895-O is even higher than its mintage would suggest. The 1895-O today is priced at \$225 in G-4. No other Barber dime brings more than \$65 in G-4. In MS-65 the 1895-O is \$10,000, which is \$1,600 more than its nearest competition, the 1894-O, which had a mintage of 720,000. The fact that the 1894-O ranks at least fairly close in MS-65, despite the fact that a number of dates have lower mintages, suggests that both the 1894-O and 1895-O are even more expensive than we might suspect because New Orleans dimes of the period are extremely tough in top grades. That is confirmed by the fact that the 1896-O and 1897-O are also well above the average price of even better MS-65 Barber dimes.

The New Orleans dates of the 1890s are a perfect place to start a Barber dime collection. Experienced collectors and dealers understand the best way to start a collection is with key dates, and Barber dimes are no exception. While not

*(continued on page 22)*



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*Editor's note: BCCS member Luca Lizzio has given permission to share with you the information in his recent letter to Paul Reuter.*

June 15, 2002  
Paul Reuter  
415 Ellen Dr.  
Brookhaven, MS 39601

Dear Paul,

... I'd... like to give my opinion on the BCCS Literary Contest that took place recently. I really appreciated Tyler Child's articles regarding Barber Halves: "The Grading Nuances of Circulated Barber Halves" which was both technical and useful and with very nice pictures, and also his first one "Barber Halves." I also really liked John Frost's "Building a Condition Rarity Set of Barber Quarters" which if it also included pictures illustrating the condition rarity highlights, would have certainly been my favourite. A very useful bag of information indeed, and I could really appreciate to consult the complete results for the whole 74 coin set. I also liked your article "Then and Now" which made me curious about the dates and mintmarks of what you could find, and also what was available in change during other periods in a more recent or more distant past. I remember having touched this argument during our pleasing phone conversation of some time ago.

I also took Phil Carrigan's advice in his Vol. 13, No. 1 message and visited Randy Holder's great website, and I also reread his Vol. 8, No. 4 letter to the editor/article on the same topic. They were very instructive and clever; and a real grading guide too. As you probably remember, my favourite Barber series is the quarters, and I'd really enjoy to read articles like Randy Holder's and like Tyler Child's "grading nuances" regarding the quarters, maybe including nice pictures of the highlights.

I haven't made many great buys recently but here are the most interesting finds in the last six months, all in Italy:

25c 1909-O ab. VF original (scarce!)  
25c 1898-S F12 original  
50c 1909-S ab. AU, slightly cleaned and minor marks but still nice  
50c 1915-S F15 orig.  
50c 1912-D F/VF  
50C 1900 VG10 orig.

I recently had to pass on a dealer's inventory of many U.S. coins which

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included several Barbers; the best were 50c pieces like 1894-O VF, 1894-P F, 1893-O, etc., if I remember correctly. His prices were way - way out of line. A typical example of the right coins in the wrong hands; the dealer was too narrow-minded to even consider any negotiation as he had no idea of what he had in stock, pricing randomly but mostly on the (very) high side, and I ended up in buying....nothing!

This brings me to another point where you asked me once to write an article about what it's like to collect U.S. coins from abroad and in particular in Italy. Well, I could actually put a few interesting things together, but the problem is that to make complete sense, I would necessarily have to talk about U.S. coins in general and then gradually specify on the Barber series (I already told you that I collect many U.S. series even though I specialize on Barbers, 25c Liberty Standing and 5c Buffalo). I think this would be in contrast with the majority of the BCCS Journal articles which are very specific on Barbers, whether on varieties, errors, condition census rarities, slabs, prices, but still all concerning Barbers. I don't know really how many BCCS members would appreciate such an article.

Please let me know what you and the other BCCS officials think about this.

You have my permission to use the above information for BCCS purposes in general...

Best regards,  
Luca Lizzio



### **"Dig Into Barber Dime Series for Challenge"**

*(continued from page 20)*

all of the 1890 New Orleans Barber dimes are key dates, most are tough and none are common.

The 1895-O in any grade is the key, but it has a lot of company in terms of other tough New Orleans dates. The 1896-O, with a mintage of 610,000, is also a tough date, and at \$50 in G-4 is close both in mintage and price to the 1897-O, which is \$40 in G-4 and had a mintage of 666,000. The 1894-O is currently at \$39 in G-4 - a modest price for a coin well over a century in age with a mintage of 720,000.

*Editor's note:* Due to its length, this article will continue in Vol. 13, No. 3.

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